

William Harris Crawford to Andrew Jackson, March 15, 1816, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

SECRETARY CRAWFORD TO JACKSON.

Department of War, March 15, 1816.

Sir, It appears from the representations of colonel Hawkins, that the Negroe fort erected during the war, at the junction of the Chatachouchie and Flint rivers, has been strengthened since that period, and is now occupied by between two hundred and fifty and three hundred blacks, who are well armed, clothed and disciplined. Secret practices to inveigle negroes from the frontiers of Georgia, as well as from the Cherokees and Creek nations, are still continued by the negroes, and hostile Creeks. This is a state of things which cannot fail to produce much injury to the neighbouring settlements, and excite irritations which may ultimately endanger the peace of the nation. The President has therefore directed me to instruct you to call the attention of the governor or military commander of Pensacola to this subject. The principles of good neighbourhood require the interference of the Spanish authority, to put an end to an evil of so serious a nature. Should he decline this interference, it will be incumbent on the Executive to determine what course shall be adopted in relation to this banditti. Should it be determined that the destruction of this fort does not require the sanction of the legislature, measures will be promptly taken for its reduction. From the representations of its strength heavy cannon will be necessary to batter it. It is presumed, that a cooperation of the naval force may be useful, at least, in transporting the battering train.

I have the honor to be,